

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A tooth-hardening apparatus for a teething infant, comprising:

a plate shaped first tooth-hardening member having an upper surface and a separate lower surface, at least one of the surfaces being provided with a plurality of projections, wherein the plate lies in a plane; and

a plate shaped second tooth-hardening member having an upper surface and a separate lower surface, at least one of the surfaces being provided with a plurality of projections;

wherein the plate shaped second tooth-hardening member is arranged at a periphery of the first tooth-hardening member and is extended from the periphery of the plate shaped first tooth hardening member in the plane in which the plate shaped first tooth hardening member lies,

the upper and lower surfaces of the first tooth-hardening member and the upper and lower surfaces of the second tooth-hardening member are formed of respective materials which have hardnesses different from each other, and

wherein the harder surface of the first tooth-hardening member is harder than the harder surface of the second tooth-hardening member which is arranged at the periphery of the first tooth-hardening member, and both the first and second tooth-hardening members are adapted to be chewed by the infant.

7. (Previously Presented) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first hardening member is in the form of an annulus and has a space formed substantially in a center portion of the annulus, the space being contained within two transparent covers which abut one another.

8. (Original) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a plurality of colored balls are contained in the space covered with the transparent cover.

9. (Original) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the transparent cover is provided with a drain hole.

10. (Original) The tooth-hardening apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a gripping opening is disposed on the first tooth-hardening member.

11-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The tooth hardening apparatus for a teething infant of claim 6,

wherein the hardness of the upper surface of the plate shaped first tooth-hardening member is greater than ~~differs from~~ the hardness of the separate lower surface of the first tooth-hardening member and/or the hardness of the upper surface of the plate shaped second tooth-hardening member is less than ~~differs from~~ the hardness of the separate lower surface of the second tooth-hardening member.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The tooth-hardening apparatus for a teething infant of claim 6, wherein the first tooth hardening member is an annular shaped plate and the second tooth hardening member is an oval shaped plate.